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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/020,712 02/09/98 LEE

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EXAMINER

CHAWAN, V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2741

8

DATE MAILED:

11/09/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/020,712

Applicant(s)

Lee et al.

Examiner
Vijay Chawan

Group Art Unit
2741



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Oct 14, 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 13-25 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 13-25 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The corrected or substitute drawings were received on 10/14/99. These drawings are approved by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 13 -25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holm et al., (5,850,629) and in view of Waters et al., (5,657,426).

As per claims 13 and 14, Holm et al., teach user interface controller for text-to-speech synthesizer for interlocking with multimedia comprising the steps of:

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a multimedia information input unit for organizing text, prosody information etc., including gender and speech rate (abstract, fig.1, Figure 3, (cybertalk preferences and user dictionary test2), figures 5 and 6, Col.6, lines 52-59, Col.15, line 29 - Col.16, line 39);

a data distributor by each media for each media for distributing the information of said multimedia information input unit (fig.10);

a language processor for converting the text distributed by said media distributor by each media into a phoneme stream, presuming prosody information and symbolizing the presumed prosody information (Col.11, line 43 - Col.13, line 7);

a prosody processor for calculating a prosody control parameter value (Col.5, lines 58-67);

a synchronization adjustor for adjusting a duration of each phoneme using the synchronization information (Fig.4, item 80);

a synthesis unit database for receiving the individual property information from said data distributor, selecting synthesis units adaptable to gender and age, and outputting data required for synthesis (Fig 4, item 84, Fig 8, Col.6, lines 52-59);

a signal processor for producing a synthesized speech using the prosody control parameter (abstract).

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Holm et al., teach organizing input data of a text-to-speech conversion system for interlocking with multimedia using prosody analysis, but they do not specifically teach synchronizing this information with moving picture and picture information. Waters et al., however does teach a text-to-speech system for coding and decoding moving pictures based on the result of speech analysis for interlocking with multimedia (Figures 2 and 3, Col.1, line 54- Col.2, line 33). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the capabilities of coding and decoding moving picture based on the result of text-to-speech analysis as taught by Waters et al., into the system of Holm et al., because this would enable a user to efficiently coordinate the moving pictures and speech resulting from the prosodic analysis, thereby creating a composite which is high in quality.

As per claims 15-18, 22, and 24-25, Holm et al., teach analyzing and outputting prosody information (Col.11, line 43 - Col.13, line 7, Fig.1, Col.4, lines 50-65, Fig.7).

As per claims 19-21 and 23, Waters et al., teach a system and method for a text-to-speech conversion system for interlocking with multimedia, using lip-shape, location information and duration information as per claims 19-21 and 23 (Figures 1A and 1B, 4, Col.3, lines 52 - Col.4, lines 32, Col.5, lines 29- 45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the

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time of invention, that by synchronizing speech and lip movement as taught by Waters et al., and incorporating it into the system taught by Holm et al., an artisan with ordinary skill in the art can effectively combine the capabilities afforded by multimedia and be able to view the results with a greater degree of accuracy.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 13-25, have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vijay Chawan whose telephone number is (703) 305-3836.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David R. Hudspeth, can be reached at (703) 308-4825.

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Any response to this action should be mailed to:

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or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 305-9508 (for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121

Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

Vijay Chawan
November 2, 1999



DAVID R. HUDSPETH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 2700